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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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May 17, 1993

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, Suite 222
Washington DC 20554

SUBJECT: Comments on FCC Docket 92-235

We are very concerned about the possible requirement that our Public Works and Public Safety radio use will be further restricted by reductions in power and band width.

Our radio systems are crucial to the public health, safety, and welfare of Benton County citizens. Decisions which may inhibit the effectiveness of communication throughout the county should not become a detriment to rural radio communications simply because there is a desire for more commercial radio bands in the large metropolitan areas such as New York and Los Angeles.

It is our understanding that the changes proposed in Docket 92-235 would require replacement of most of our city and county public radio equipment. The cost would be several hundreds of thousands of dollars. We also understand the new equipment that would be required is not commercially available.

The time frame for implementation is a major issue. It will take considerable time, in addition to money, to make any major radio conversions. Several years will be required for an orderly change in our radio systems.

We suggest that Docket 92-235 not be implemented until all details have been worked out to the best interests of all of our citizens. We also suggest that the Federal Communications Commission work with the Associated Public Safety Communications Officers, Inc. (APCO) to serve the interests of Public Works and Public Safety emergency radio needs.

John Dilworth, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

c: Oregon Congressional Delegation
Public Works Director

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